

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks, wherein Claim 7 has been amended and Claim 9 has been canceled from the application.

As an initial matter, Applicants express gratitude for the indication of allowed Claims 3-6 and 13-17.

However, Claims 7-11 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,968,068 to *Larsson*.

Independent Claim 7 has been amended to include the feature that the diameter D_i of the imaginary cylinder is less than 36 mm. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not disclosed in the document to *Larsson*.

Larsson discloses a thread coupling for drill string members including at least one male thread and at least one female thread. *Larsson* makes no mention of any particular measurement, and the Examiner may not use the drawings to artificially define such measurements. In particular, the Federal Circuit has made it clear that “patent drawings do not define the precise proportions of the elements and may not be relied on to show particular sizes if the specification is completely silent on this issue.” *Hockerson-Halberstadt, Inc. v. Avia Gropu Int’l, Ltd.*, 222 F.3d 951, 55 U.S.P.Q.2d 1487 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Accordingly, Applicants submit that *Larsson* fails to disclose the patentable features of independent Claim 7.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the drill bit of independent Claim 7, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the applied document. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.


Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she should be contacted at the number indicated below.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,

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